

Message Text

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ORIGIN COA-02

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DRAFTED BY SFW/COA W.G.VANCAMPEN:EEB

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APPROVED BY SFW/COA W.G.VANCAMPEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS STATE 158897

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS AS

SUBJECT: MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION AND COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

REF: CANBERRA'S TELEGRAM 4407 DTD. 8/8

1. MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT OF 1972, COPY OF WHICH IS BEING FORWARDED, PROVIDES GRACE PERIOD OF 24 MONTHS FOLLOWING DATE OF ENACTMENT IN WHICH TAKING OF MARINE MAMMALS INCIDENTAL TO COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATIONS SHALL BE PERMITTED. THAT PERIOD WILL END IN OCTOBER 1974. EVEN DURING GRACE PERIOD SUCH TAKING MUST CONFORM TO REGULATIONS AND CONDITIONS WHICH SECRETARY OF COMMERCE MAY IMPOSE TO INSURE THAT TECHNIQUES AND EQUIPMENT USED WILL PRODUCE LEAST PRACTICABLE HAZARD TO MARINE MAMMALS. ACT ALSO PROVIDES POSSIBILITY FOR INCIDENTAL TAKING OF MAMMALS TO CONTINUE AFTER 24 MONTH PERIOD BUT ONLY UNDER RESTRICTIVE SYSTEM OF SPECIAL PERMITS.

2. LAW DOES NOT, AS REFTTEL IMPLIES, LEAVE IT ENTIRELY TO INDUSTRY TO COME UP WITH ACCEPTABLE TECHNIQUES TO AVOID HARM TO MARINE MAMMALS INCIDENT TO COMMERCIAL FISHING. IT DIRECTS GOVERNMENT TO UNDERTAKE IMMEDIATELY RESEARCH AND

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DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR THIS PURPOSE AND AUTHORIZES APPRO-

PRIATION OF \$1 MILLION ANNUALLY FOR TWO YEARS TO SUPPORT
THIS RESEARCH. PROGRAM OF RESEARCH FOCUSED ON TUNA PURSE
SEINING IS ACTIVELY UNDER WAY WITH CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN

GOVERNMENT TECHNICIANS AND TUNA FISHERMEN.

3. IF TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON PROBLEM OF PORPOISE IN TUNA
PURSE SEINES IS DESIRED, INQUIRY MAY BE MADE OF DR. B. J.
ROTHSCHILD, DIRECTOR, SOUTHWEST FISHERIES CENTER, NATIONAL
MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE, LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA. ROGERS

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